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too minute to supply any information respecting the form of the burials," or, what is much more important, the character of the skeletons themselves, from which the racial affinities of the people might perhaps be determined. Scarcely second in interest to the long-sought "Rosetta stone of the Mayas" would be a moderately large series of Maya skeletons in a fair state of preservation.

FRANK RUSSELL.

GENERAL BIOLOGY.

Variation in Seedlings. — Professor Herbert L. Jones[1] found in Cambridge, Mass., a sycamore maple, *Acer pseudoplanatus*, which produces seedlings showing a large number of abnormalities. The cotyledons show a tendency to be doubled, and all grades of doubling were found from a mere notch at the distal end of one cotyledon to four complete seed-leaves. Where one cotyledon is completely doubled, the plumule usually consists of a whorl of three leaves, but where there are four complete cotyledons there are never more than two leaves — a very curious correlation.

R. P. B.

Chemical Analysis of the Plankton. — The chemical composition of the plankton of the Baltic Sea is discussed and compared with the analysis of certain agricultural products in a recent paper by Brandt.[2] The Copepoda, Peridinidæ, and diatoms are the predominant forms in the plankton of this body of water. Fifty cubic centimeters of plankton of mixed constitution weigh, when dried, from 1.08 to 1.74 grams; when diatoms predominate, the weight falls as low as .04 gram; and when Copepoda are abundant, it may rise as high as 2.1 grams. The results of the enumerations made of the organisms in the different catches subjected to analysis are utilized in the computation of their number in a gram of the dried plankton. It has thus been determined that it takes 675,000,000 diatoms (principally Chætoceros) or 42,000,000 to 65,000,000 Peridinidæ to weigh one gram; in the case of the marine Copepoda, from 300,000 to 500,000 are required; while the single analysis of a fresh-water plankton composed mainly of the larger individuals indicates that 50,000 to 124,000 are

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[1] Jones, H. L. Unusual Forms of Maple Seedlings. Oberlin College, *Laboratory Bulletin* (1898), No. 9.

[2] Brandt, K. Beiträge zur Kenntniss der chemischen Zusammensetzung des Planktons. *Wissensch. Meeresuntersuchungen,* Neue Folge, Bd. iii (1898), Heft 2, pp. 45–90.